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HELP HOLD UP WILSON'S HANDS

These are certainly troublous times, and the administration at Washington is more aware of it than any American organization or any individual. From every direction comes sought but trouble brought about through the greed, ambition or rapacity of man, and President Wilson's administration has all of these woes to carry.

The case of the *Alcona* is the latest to add itself to the many previous afflictions of warring man, and what may result from it is yet in the dim future. It comes right on the heels of the strong note just dispatched to the British government complaining of its ruthless aggressions against our neutral rights.

After the messenger carrying the notes had departed, a British cruiser seized an American vessel on its way from one port of the United States to another, and took it by force to the British naval station at Halifax.

Only a day or two afterward an other British cruiser seized and finally searched an American vessel while lying in the neutral port of Progreso, Mexico.

These likewise are grave incidents threatening to grow into serious issues between this and foreign governments.

The situation in Mexico itself is still disturbed and unsettled, with no man knowing what the morrow may bring forth, and only the great European war saving the United States from the serious embarrassment that would result from European pressure for the establishment of order in that distressed republic.

Constantly, daily, from almost every point in the compass, from near and far, new incidents, new issues, new dangers, are arising to perplex the government at Washington which is striving with all its might to stand for American rights, to protect American honor, and at the same time avoid a plunge over the precipice of war.

It is little to be wondered at that President Wilson and his cabinet face to face with many dangerous problems and duties, speaking for a peaceful and pacific nation that finds it self confronted by a world appealing to force, have felt impelled to summon their countrymen to be prepared to defend America.

Nor is it to be wondered if their appeal meets with a sympathetic response. The average American has enough imagination to be able to form some notion of the burdens that Woodrow Wilson and his advisers are bearing. Of the momentous responsibilities they are discharging, of the difficulties that encompass them, they are dangers and trials not of our making, but with which just the same we have to deal. Realizing all this the average American, we have a notion, concludes that this is a mighty good time to stand by the president of the United States to hold up his hands, to give him moral encouragement and support as he battles for American rights and interests against dangers that beset from beyond our borders.

THE SEIZURE OF THE HOCKING

When the American steamer *Hocking* was seized by a British cruiser off the American coast, the New York American promptly threw a fit—and a real fit it was, too, and concluded its demonstration with the statement that "the blockade of New York is now complete," which, while thus frantically and frankly phrased has something of the real situation incorporated in its denunciation. It rather says:

For more than a year American ships bound to foreign neutral ports have been regularly seized and their cargoes confiscated. But our ships still had the proud privilege of trading unmolested between our own home ports. Now the blockade has stopped that! Henceforth an American ship bound from New York to another American port or to New York from another American port will be permitted to voyage unmolested only when it suits the British blockading squadrons not to seize her.

The facts are that the *Hocking*, a ship owned by Americans and of American register, flying the American flag, was on her way in Norfolk, Va., to load coal for Argentina. Not only was there no contraband aboard her—there can be no "contraband" traffic between two American ports—but the ship was in ballast, without cargo of any kind. This ship was seized by the British cruisers, almost

within sight of American soil, and taken by force into the British fortified port of Halifax.

This action was taken by virtue of a recent British order in council abrogating Article 57 of the Treaty of London to the effect that a ship's nationality is determined by the flag it is entitled to carry. The British government establishes a new rule, in direct defiance of all previously recognized international law, by virtue of which British commanders may seize any American ship, though flying the American flag, and plying between American ports, if the ship is believed by the British government to be partly or wholly owned by citizens of Germany or Austria. The management of the *Hocking* protests the ship is owned in its entirety by American citizens, every one of them born in America. Their rights will be determined, if the British government has its way, in a British prize court.

This, while not the most serious, is probably the most aggravating instance yet recorded of British interference with American commerce.

The New York American voice seems to be for war, instantaneously, on account of it, and that newspaper is greatly peevish because the government at Washington is proceeding in so orderly and peaceable a manner to assert American rights in the matter. It talks about "truckling" and "white feathers" and altogether is very severe with President Wilson and the state department.

Precisely the same sort of criticism it may be recalled, was voiced when the administration was endeavoring, by the ways of peace, to settle this country's grievances against Germany. It was not all accomplished in a day or in a week—or in a month—it took a good many months, in fact, and American ships were sunk and American lives lost in the fringes of the mad war that swept over American rights and interests. When in terms broken bones on earth the innocent bystander is pretty sure to suffer some injury. But it is not an injury for which war itself will afford compensation. Without yielding from his contention for the full recognition of American rights President Wilson promised patients, not firmly, for a settlement without war, and such a settlement was finally reached. The relations between the German and American governments are today friendly, the two great peoples are at peace with one another. American rights are scrupulously respected by Germany, and innumerable horrors have been avoided. We have peace with honor.

It is now the turn of Great Britain. As was true in the case of Germany, so it must be considered only as a last resort and unavoidable result. The administration has a right to hope and to believe that the British government, like the German government, will consent to abandon its class and brutal violations of American neutrals rights once the issue is pressed firmly home. It is the duty of America and its civilization to bring this result about by peaceful means, though, if not quite as much as in its duty, to stand without wavering for the honor and legitimate interests and rights of this country. That we may be sure, is what President Wilson and Secretary Lansing will do and are doing. It has been said and will take time and patience to secure that German crews will be given a million of our rights.

And while here and there incipient patrols may claim for blood and war, the great body of the American people will not join in the demand. This will expectantly that the president, when the same stalwart Americanism toward the one government that he showed toward the other and that in doing so he will contribute to the full satisfaction of all the world that there is nothing justifiable or partial about our neutrality. This expectation, this newspaper has the fullest confidence will be met and satisfied.

THE LOGIC OF THE STAND PATTERS

The fellow who as an embryo theologian thinks that his infant views and deductions will satisfy the world, is on a par with the standpatter politicians of the old O. P. who say that when the war is over, in the Old World, that this country will be flooded with cheap goods from those countries in such quantities that our own manufacturers will have to shut up shop and all of our workmen and operators will either leave to go to the poor houses or what is worse

start to death.

Now when you ask one of these verbiage propagandists of ruin and disaster how Europe, with all of her countries devastated by the most awful war that the world has ever known, with millions of her able bodied workmen in their graves and other millions crippled so that they will have to be supported for the rest of their days, suddenly become able to supply the world with a surplus of goods, the only answer you will get from these

standpatterers is a string of the words and then the vague assertion that more miraculous things than that have happened. And that is all of the answer that you will get.

This cannot help but remind us of an East St. Joseph man who tells us that he has a miraculous furnace in his house. He says when he fires it up it heats the whole country round about and he has to put the fire out every day. Four times this fall when the weather got cold, he has built a fire in that furnace and the next day the whole town was warmed up so much that everybody let their fires go out. These standpatters say that a great era of prosperity followed the Franco-Prussian war and therefore prosperity will follow this war and there will be the most flourishing times ever known in Europe when the war closes.

Good enough will be manufactured to flood the world. Their logic is as good as that of the man with the miraculous furnace. The fact that more men have been killed and more property destroyed in a week in the present war than during the whole Franco-Prussian campaign does not distract them in the least. Hot weather followed the building of a fire in that furnace and prosperity followed one war, so that settles it. It is a ridiculous sort of logic, but it is just the sort of logic you can hear these Republican hot air merchants spout on any street corner in St. Joseph any day when it is warm enough for them to be out.

THE SUICIDE OF EUROPE

When Lord Loreburn made a speech in the British house of lords last week he not only said something, but he started more people to thinking about the progress of the war than ever had done in history when he said:

I was told two months ago that 15,000 men had been killed or disabled by the *Hocking*. Millions have been added to this number since, and if the conflict continues indefinitely, resulting in sacrifice per capita in Europe

—I think the coming stage of combat prevails before the world enters the great continent of Europe will be little better than a wilderness populated by old men, women and children.

Enough men there are, a few of whom are intelligent enough to see that this business cannot go on "in infinite" without defeating the very purpose for which they profess to be contending.

It means that the better minds of Europe begin to see the criminal aspects of nationalistic bias about "fighting to the last penny and the last drop of blood."

It means that the war has reached the stinking stage.

It means that it is being conducted at a loss greater than any possible gain.

It means that Europe is bound to spend by hook or by crook.

A kind of secret service has set up a belligerent government. It is not of profit. Obviously all cannot win. And the ruling faction of no single nation at war dares to claim emperors. To do so is its own death sentence. It prefers therefore, in the name of all that is high-sounding, to an abasing the death sentence of millions of its own people. And these last drops of blood" and "last pennies" which they so honorably pledge are not their own, are not even their people's alone—they are the common heritage of us all.

It is time to stop wondering which side will win. That either side can win decisively is unlikely. Germany has the ability.

The allies have the resources. The German government—Well, it blew in its name is hell, could probably dare to stop now. The and it is an "authority" on matters other governments do not dare. Or political in the Fourth district. So as they dare stop only on terms which authoritative is it that it signs its name to the German government dare not to its "inspired" articles. Its article on Fourth district affairs Wednesday.

What it might come to can be seen from what it has come to in its "Federal Sale" published about a week ago—the laughing stock of the sporting world.

In 1848, at the end of the thirty years war, three-fourths of the German people had perished. forests had

Vic Murdock, the red headed Kansas City factor, in towns, houses as Bull Moose, has gone to Europe

were demolished for firewood, an to write war stories. Despite the fact

of 400,000 and 140,000 victims that he or no other correspondent

camp followers prowled and pillaged every gets closer than fifty miles to the

as its sole means of sustenance since fighting line, he will be back next

as commanders could not pay it, and summer with a choice lot of "observers" there would have been little or nothing vocation on the firing line.

Not the thirty years' war was pro-

The proposition is celebrate the claimed as "a war for humanity."

And so is this war.

Only, with improved machinery, if St. Joseph, as it has to Omaha and Lincoln, who for two years past have

the dread of revolution and an celebrated their anniversaries in the army is absurd. Not the least weird manner which St. Joseph proposes to

lead talk like a revolutionist, and a revolutionist talk like a lord; it makes

Our trade balance the last week

Lord Loreburn talk like Gustavus was \$18,802,155 an increase of over

Heute, and Gustav Heute talk like \$14,000,000 over the week before

Lord Loreburn. Besides, more people does this spell Republican calamity?

Read that testimony furnished by the Republican Chicago Tribune printed on the first page of this paper and then say that the Democrats have made "hard times."

DEMOCRATIC ANNOUNCEMENTS
I hereby announce myself as a candidate for Member of Congress from the Fourth Congressional District of Missouri, subject to the primary election, August 8, 1916.

ROBERT L. YOUNG.

Sayings of Missouri Editors

What's Your Trouble, Maas?

A well-cooked meal is a powerful aid to love.—Worth County Times.

And Wishes Are All

A well-wisher is one who invests money in oil stocks.—Atchison County Mail.

Could Not Be Expected

With all Europe in eruption it was too much to expect Vesuvius to keep quiet.—Murrelline Mirror.

Somebody Must Be Fooled

Every nation is going to fight until it is victorious. Somebody seems to be for a fooling.—St. Louis Times.

Haiger Does Well Away

In the gun shoot at St. Joseph last Friday, we note that John Haiger shot at 100 and broke 36. He does pretty well away from home.—Mound City Journal.

Can Walk Straight in Maryville

The wayfaring man, though a fool, need not err in Maryville streets now since the pretty new street signs are all up.—Nodaway Democrat Forum.

Who Is "Digging" It Up?

Somebody is spending a quantity of money in the effort to educate the people of Missouri to support the land bank.—Memphis Democrat.

For He Is a Good Man

The only objection so far urged against Judge Ellison for governor is that he is too good a man for the place, and this came from Republican sources that fear his strength.—Nodaway Democrat Forum.

Was a Most Foolish Idea

As Atchison man claims his wife died in poison him. As easy as a divorce is to obtain in Kansas, it seems to be foolish for a woman to try to get rid of her husband by the poison route.—Belvoir Herald.

Well! Would You Ever!

It is doubtful if a woman really likes to be hugged. She just wants a man to pay attention to her, and in order to get him to do it, she stands for the hugging.—Lamar Democrat.

G. O. P. Congressman Promoted It

Secretary McAdoo has discovered that a postoffice site in Seattle for which the government paid \$10,000 was eight feet under water at high tide. Congressman Humphrey of Washington promoted the sale.—Glasgow Missourian.

One Place It Holds Up

Woman suffrage was defeated in three states Tuesday, but it still holds its own in the state of Missouri.—Janesville Bulletin.

Should Get Better—Limbs

The roll-down stocking style of the women just now in vogue, like some of the other display of anatomy fads, is disappointing to some, as they are not built to take advantage of these extreme styles.—Moberly Democrat.

Pin Him Down and Hold Him

When you run across a Republican howling about the "war-tax," ask him if he means the income tax and whether his party intends to repeal it if restored to power. Don't let him dodge and squirm. Impale him on that pin and keep him there.—Henry County Democrat.

That Kansas City "Enterprise"

For high-class enterprise the Enterprise Foundry company of Kansas City is entitled to special distinction in the business world. This company sold rotten iron pipe to the city, bought it back unused as junk and presumably sold it all over again. Wallingford has nothing on the Enterprise foundry people.—Glasgow Missourian.

Get ready for the big farm congress to be held here next month

If there is no prosperity, why is there a car shortage?

St. Joseph does not need a city manager—it has too many now.

Come now, Editor Morris, answer Bobt. I. Young.

And still Bobt. I. Young has not had an answer from Charley Morris.

He "Saved" Vermont and Utah

It is rumored that Mr. Hillis will not be chairman of the Republican national committee next campaign. They can fire him if they want to, but they can never get away from the fact that Hillis saved not only Utah, but also Vermont. That is his record.—Republ.

Only four weeks until Christmas. Do your shopping now.

Only a week until Turkey is ripe